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of English. It wastes a large part of the time and effort given to the instruction of our children, keeping them, for example, from one to two years behind the school-children of Germany, and condemning many of them to alleged 'illiteracy' all their days."

This claim is based upon a statement made by Prof. Max Müller which may or may not be true, for its verification is very difficult; but one thing seems certain, that if it be correct, we ought first of all to reform our methods of teaching English spelling before we start at the spelling itself. From what we know by personal experience and by inspection of the spelling primers, the methods of teaching orthography appear to be devised for the purpose of stultifying the children and making the study as hard for them as possible.

It does not seem reasonable to us that a "gradual simplification of the spelling will aid the spread of English." The only way in which English can take root among those nations which speak other languages would be by accustoming their children at a tender age to the sounds of English speech.

We are firmly convinced that the time will come when one language will carry us throughout all the countries of the world, and this will be brought about in the natural development of mankind even in spite of the wrong methods employed by the advocates of an artificial auxiliary language and a Simplified Spelling Board.

EDITOR.

#### REPORT OF THE DELEGATION FOR THE ADOPTION OF AN INTERNATIONAL LANGUAGE.

Carried to their ultimate conclusion, the efforts after international peace might be considered to lead ideally to one universal nation or brotherhood of nations, a universal religion and a universal language. It is surely as a step along this path of progress that many intelligent men and learned societies are advocating the adoption of an international auxiliary language which is intended to facilitate commercial and other relations between the countries of the earth. The official society of the advocates of such an international language is called the "Delegation for the Adoption of an International Auxiliary Language" (*Délégation pour l'adoption d'une langue auxiliaire internationale*), and it is a noteworthy fact that by July 15, 1907, its membership consisted of 301 societies and

1251 names of individuals belonging to university faculties and learned societies (including many of the Academies of the International Association). The societies include commercial, literary, scientific societies, even trade guilds such as the Belgian Society of Engineers and Industrial Workers, geographical societies, humanitarian associations and international camps of every variety.

The Delegation publishes a summary of the twelve hundred individual names arranged by cities. Of course Paris has much the largest number, as eighteen institutions of that city are represented, and very fully. We find names also from the universities of Michigan, Ohio, Missouri, Southern California, Nebraska, Pennsylvania, Washington, Yale, Harvard, Princeton, Columbia, Cornell, Johns Hopkins; Bryn Mawr and Williams Colleges; American Academy of Arts and Sciences at Boston, Virginia Polytechnic Institute, and the Academy of Science at Washington, D. C. Of some of the Western ones of these American institutions more than twenty names are enrolled, and even Princeton has eleven representatives. Further particulars may be obtained by application to the secretaries of the Committee of the Delegation, M. Louis Couturat (Treasurer), 7 Rue Pierre Nicole, Paris (Ve); and M. L. Leau, 6 Rue Vavin, Paris (VIe). These gentlemen have issued a report on the proceedings of the Delegation with relation to the Academies which pertains to the subject under discussion by Professor Brugmann, as quoted by Dr. Carus on another page of this issue ("Philologists' Views on Artificial Languages"). The Report quotes the letter of the Academy of Vienna written in response to a request of the Delegation, endorsed by eight prominent men including Couturat and Ostwald, that the Imperial Academy of Vienna as the presiding Academy should include the question of the choice of an international auxiliary language in the program of the approaching general assembly. The letter is addressed to the other academies of the Association asking them to vote for or against the insertion of this point in the program of the meeting, but adds certain suggestions for their consideration which, translated, read as follows:

"Since according to Section 3 of the By-laws only such objects as are proposed by one of the associated academies may be taken into deliberation, we had first to ask the members of our Academy whether they would consider it desirable to make such a motion. The result of our deliberations was that it hardly seemed advisable to pass over in silence a petition supported by such learned names

and also, as we well know, by a much greater number of important people. On the other hand, the difficulties of the affair itself cannot be ignored nor the strictly circumscribed limits which have been set in Section 3 of its By-laws to the operations of the Association." From this standpoint the Imperial Academy of Vienna proposes to its correspondents (1) that the International Association will place the petition of the Delegation on the program at the approaching general assembly; (2) that the Association should decide that it does not consider itself competent to undertake the choice of an international auxiliary language without entering into the question too deeply.

Such was the final official action of the Academies, and the Delegation as represented in its Report does not consider this result as in any way derogatory to the cause; for, they say, it is clear that the Academies have not entered deeply into the question and have decided nothing except that it did not come within their province. Moreover the Academy of Vienna did say that "a solution will be found by the empirical paths hitherto trod; i. e., by intelligent attempts, and careful adaptation to the actual needs, more readily than by theoretical investigation," thus implying (in the opinion of the Delegation) the possibility of a practical solution. Since it is necessary to find a solution adapted to definite needs, this is the task that has been undertaken by the Delegation, and the action of the Academies gives them assurance that the Delegation through its committee will solve the problem more quickly and satisfactory than the Academies could, and that the decision of the committee will bear more weight in the eyes of the people than a commission chosen by the Associated Academies. Accordingly a committee of twelve men was chosen for the task with MM. Couturat and Leau (above mentioned) as its secretaries.

L. G. R.

### SAMPSON AND SHEMESH ONCE MORE.

An article<sup>1</sup> in *The Monist* of January, 1907, in which I denied the identity of Sampson the Hebrew Shophet with Shemesh the Chaldean god, has given rise to a book entitled *The Story of Samson*, recently published by the eminent editor Dr. Paul Carus. In it

<sup>1</sup> This has been published in the Appendix of *The Story of Samson*, p. 173. (Open Court Publishing Co., 1907.)